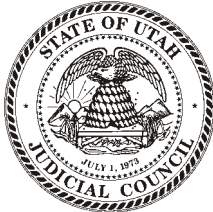


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NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 6, 2004

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UTAH SUPREME COURT ADOPTS RULE FOR SPECIAL ADMISSION EXCEPTION FOR MILITARY LAWYERS

Salt Lake City, Utah—The Utah Supreme Court has signed into effect Rule 11-303, of the Supreme Court Rules of Professional Practice—or ELAP—allowing qualified military lawyers who are stationed in Utah, but not licensed to practice law in Utah, to provide free legal services to military personnel and their dependents. The court approved the new rule under its emergency rule making authority, with an effective date of May 4, 2004.

The American Bar Association is urging jurisdictions nationwide to adopt an Expanded Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) Rule as a way to help military service members, who are in harm's way, with non-criminal matters.

At the Supreme Court's request, the Utah State Bar filed a petition with the court on April 2, 2004, to adopt the ELAP Rule. Military lawyers admitted under the rule are prohibited from representing themselves to be members of the Utah State Bar, and they may not convey the

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Supreme Court Adopts Rule/2

impression that they are licensed to generally practice law in Utah. Representation is primarily intended to benefit military personnel in enlisted grades E-1 through E-4 and their dependents who are under substantial financial hardship.

“ELAP is a worthy initiative,” said Utah Supreme Court Chief Justice Christine Durham. “Many service members are at an income level that makes hiring an attorney financially impossible, and it seems the least we can do to help those protecting our nation.”

Rule 11-303 is posted on the court’s website at www.utcourts.gov/resources/rules/comments/ for public comment.

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